

**ACM SIG Governing Board**



# **SIG Election Models**

---

**Mark Scott Johnson**  
**2004/03/21**



## **Presentation Outline**

---

- **Background**
- **Prevailing Model**
- **Alternative Models**
- **Terms of Office**
- **Bottom Line**
- **Acknowledgements**
- **Q&A**



## Background

---

- **SIGs leaders for many years have reported some difficulty in recruiting candidates for SIG elections.**
- **The SGB EC has been reluctant to grant exceptions to ACM/SIG policies on elections.**



## Background (cont.)

---

- **With the return to a Single SIG Designation (2003/09/20), all non-transitional SIGs are now required to have elected leaders.**



## Prevailing Model

---

- **One or more “titled” positions**
  - **At least two candidates for each position**
- **$n$  at-large EC positions**
  - **At least  $n+1$  candidates**
  - **Top  $n$  vote-getting candidates are elected**



## Alternative Models

---

- **Voting Alternatives within existing Multi-Candidates Model**
- **Election-by-Slate Model**
- **Single-Candidate Model**
- **Chair-Elect Model**
- **Chair + Board Model**
- **Elected Nominating Committee**



## Voting Alternatives

---

- **Plurality (current ACM default method):**
  - **Vote *one* candidate per position.**
  - **Candidate with most votes wins, even if not a majority.**
- **Approval:**
  - **Vote zero or more candidates per position.**
  - **Candidate with most votes wins and usually has the majority, too.**



## Voting Alternatives (cont.)

---

- **Preferential:**
  - **Each voter ranks all candidates 1 (highest) thru  $n$  (lowest).**
  - **Candidate with highest tally wins.**



## Election by Slate

---

- **Slate of candidates of sufficient size to fill all positions:**
  - **Slate designates positions *a priori*.**
  - **Slate decides positions among themselves after election.**
- **Generally, at least two slates are nominated.**



## Election by Slate (cont.)

---

- **Overlapping slates may be allowed.**
- **“Short slates” may be allowed to appoint remaining positions.**
- **“Long slates” may be allowed to play musical chairs (i.e., some elected candidates don’t actually serve).**



## Single Candidate

---

- **A la most USA Judge Elections.**
- **May want minimum vote-return requirement.**



## Chair-Elect

---

- **Nominate at least two candidates for Chair-Elect position.**
- **Chair-Elect automatically becomes Chair at next election.**



## Chair + Board

---

- **Nominate at least two candidates for Chair position.**
- **Nominate  $n+1$  candidates for all other positions.**
- **Winners decide among themselves who holds any titled positions (other than Chair).**



## Elected Nom. Comm.

---

- **Elect (rather than appoint) your Nominating Committee.**
  - **Smaller commitment may make it easier to get sufficient qualified candidates.**
- **Nominating Committee may put forth a single slate or some single-candidate elections for up/down vote.**



## Terms of Office

---

- **Terms of office may be of variable length, but must be specified in the SIG's bylaws.**
- **That is, not all positions need to stand election at the same time.**



## Bottom Line

---

- **The Model SIG Bylaws are just a “serving suggestion”.**
- **Your SIG can hold elections pretty much anyway it desires, provided you amend your bylaws appropriately.**



## Acknowledgements

---

- **Pat Ryan, ACM COO**
- **Donna Baglio, ACM Director of SIG Services**



## Q&A

---